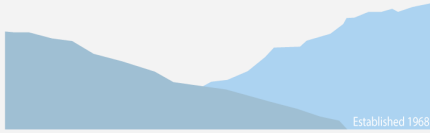


Cracklin' Static

April 2025 Edition



SIERRA NEVADA
Amateur Radio Society

SNARS BREAKFAST
April 5, 2025
See Page 3 for details!

SNARS NET on DMR – Tuesdays 8pm
DMR Talk Group: 31328 SNARS

SNARS Treasury Closing Balances

As of , 2025

Operating	\$3070
Convention	\$4100
Self Insurance	\$4117
Savings	\$17016
PayPal	\$420
Total	\$28723

Net Income / Year \$663
Net Income / Month \$85
Memberships 15

Donations	
PayPal Giving	\$0
Members	\$340
Total	\$340

Notes:

SNARS Membership as of 2025

Total	408	
Extra	138	34%
Technician	132	32%
General	120	29%
Advanced	12	3%
No License	6	1%

Notes: 1: Transferred \$1,200 from
Paypal to Operating.
2: Purchased HTs for raffles
and cables for AV equipment.

SNARS members ARRL:	263	64%
Life members ARRL:	37	9%

SNARS ARRL Members 300 74%

Volunteer Examiners (VE's): 48 12%

PRESIDENT'S VOICE

SNARS PRESIDENT BARRY BETTMAN, K6ST



Hi Everyone,

Spring is officially here ever with some warmer sunny days, however, mother nature is still in winter at times. Nevertheless, the ham radio bands continue to provide wonderful contacts with friends worldwide.

SNARS In-Person/Zoom Meeting
Jack's Coffee Shop #2
Se Saturday, April 5th
REGISTER NOW!
Click for more info

Please register <https://snars.org/monthly-meeting/> or on the banner.

This month on Saturday April 5, 2025 we will have the SNARS meeting at our favorite Jacks Coffee Shop #2 605 N Wells Ave, Reno and hybrid on zoom. 7am Breakfast, 8A SNARS Meeting, followed by the Presentation: "Aeronautical Mobile" with K6FUZ Phil.

10th Annual Reno Off-Road Motorsports expo **RENO EXPO 2025** Reno-Sparks Convention Center
Join the team! Help at the SNARS booth
Dates: March 26 Setup, March 28-30, 2025, March 30 Tear down
Hours: Wed 11a-1p Setup | Fri 10a-6p | Sat 10a-6p | Sun 10a-5p | Sun 5p- 6p + Tear Down

Thanks to everyone who is helping out at the SNARS Reno Expo pavilion. At the time of this writing, the expo is going on now, so we are looking forward to see pictures and stories soon.

As of current there are 7 adult scout leaders who passed their technician exam and 10 scouts who passed their tests also. The next scout VE testing will be on Saturday April 26, 2025. If you know of some scouts that want to get their Technician Class license, Contact Krystal N6KDN, VE Liaison, krystal2@yahoo.com ... and congrats to Krystal on her new vanity callsign N6KDN.



CONTENT CREATOR/PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER VOLUNTEER WANTED

SNARS is innovating our newsletter systems, so we are looking for help.

The position will be responsible for helping the organization in reworking our newsletter into a modern method of creation and delivery to the members. Since our board of directors are busy, we are looking for someone outside the board to help. The position also will help to provide for news releases and work with the press community when needed. The person should have experience in creating content for current-day media platforms and the ability to communicate effectively with members and the public.

Contact k6st@arrrl.net, 775-622-3801
Barry K6ST, SNARS President

JOIN OUR TEAM
APPLY NOW!
Public Information Officer:
Social Media
Content Creator
Media Relations

Hope to hear you on the air.

73, K6ST Barry k6st@arrrl.net
SNARS President



PO BOX 7727 Reno NV 89510

Yearly Dues: \$40.00 Individual • \$50.00 Family

2025 Officers

President..... Barry Bettman, K6ST
Vice-President..... Krystal Nelson AJ6GC
Treasurer..... Doug Edmondo, W7DBE
Secretary..... Anthony Marcin, W7XM
Director John Byerly, N7ROJ
Director Jim Shepherd, W6US
Director Greg Krantz NT7Q

2025 Staff

Cracklin Static	Howie Holden, WB2AWQ
W7TA Trustee	Peter DeBay, KE7VSR
KR7ENO Trustee	Howie Holden, WB2AWQ
Control Operator	Pat Sheehan, W7DED
Youth Involvement	Barry Bettman K6ST
NVQSO Coordinator	Jim Shepherd, W6US
Historian	Robin Maguire-Jones KF7VVE
Tech Team Lead	Pat Sheehan, W7DED
Membership	Kim Farnham, KG7TMA
PIO	Vacant
VE Coordinator	Krystal Nelson, N6KDN
Meeting Greeter	Bill Jones, AE7OX
DMR Net Manager	Anthony Marcin, W7XM
Reno Ham Swap	Wes Vick, KG7QXE
Webmaster	Erik Andreasen, K6CZH
Club Sales Manager	Vacant
Recording Secretary	Doug Edmondo, W7DBE
Equipment Manager	Tyler Maggert, K7TDM

Cracklin Static Publication

Editor: Howie Holden WB2AWQ - holden7471@msn.com
Cracklin' Static is the Newsletter of, and sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Cracklin' Static is published the week before meetings. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editors and contributors and should not be considered as official expressions of the Club Officers, Staff or Club Members, or as endorsements by same.

Material for publication may be edited to enhance readability or to save space. We reserve the right to use whatever font size, line spacing or other tools as may be required to publish this Newsletter. **Deadline for input to the newsletter is 1500 hours on the Sunday** prior to the 1st Saturday (or whichever Saturday is the meeting) of each month.

SNARS Wide Area Linked System

147.030 + PL 123.0	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
147.210 + PL 100.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
147.150 + PL 123.0	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
146.925 - PL 123.0	Lovelock, Fallon	Online
146.670 - PL 123.0	Winnemucca	Not Linked
444.875 + PL 100.0	Yerington	Online
444.125 + PL 123.0	Reno Sparks (coming soon)	Online

DMR Systems

444.925 + CC 1	Reno, Sparks	Online
444.825 + CC 1	Dayton, Fallon, Carson	Online
443.925 + CC 1	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
443.950 + CC 1	Incline Village	Online
442.875 + CC 1	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
442.850 + CC 1	Downtown Reno	Online
441.950 + CC 1	Fallon, Fernley	Online

Fusion Systems

146.610—DGID 28	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
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IRLP / EchoLink Systems

147.300 + PL 123.0	Reno, Sparks	Not Linked
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Packet / APRS

145.050 - RNO	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
145.050 - ROSE	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
144.390 - TOULON	Lovelock, Fallon	Offline

Standalone Systems

147.390 + PL 100.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
443.075 + PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
927.0875 + PL 114.8	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online

Online
 Offline
 Not Linked

Visit <https://snars.org/repeaters/analog> for additional updates/status on repeaters.

SNARS In-Person and Virtual Monthly Meeting

**SNARS Monthly Meeting
(hybrid in-person & virtual Zoom)
Saturday, April 5, 2025 at Jack's Café #2,
605 N. Wells Ave, Reno NV. Breakfast
In-Person 7 AM (breakfast), SNARS Meeting
at 8 AM both Zoom and in-person**

**PRESENTATION:
"Aeronautical Mobile"
with K6FUZ Phil.**



**MEETING
NOTICE!**

SNARS In-Person/Zoom Meeting

Jack's Coffee Shop #2

Saturday, April 5th

REGISTER NOW!

Click for more info



**To join in person or via Zoom, register here:
<https://snars.org/monthly-meeting/>**



Weekday on the SNARS Linked System

147.030 + PL 123 – Sparks/Fernley
147.150 + PL123.0 – Lake Tahoe / Truckee
147.210 + PL 100.0 - Reno
444.875 + PL 100.0 - Yerington
146.925 - 123.0 – Lovelock / Fallon
146.67 – PL 123.0 - Winnemucca

Monday through Friday @ 12:00pm

Open to all amateur radio operators. A general informational net for the amateur radio community of

Nets on the SNARS Linked Systems

147.210 + 100.0 | 147.030 + 123.0 | 147.150 + 123.0
147.670 – 123.0 | 146.925 – 123.0 | 444.875 + 100.0

SNARS Noon Net	Mon—Fri @ 12:00pm
ERC Net for NV and Northern CA	Monday @ 9:15pm
N. Western NV ARES Net	Thursday @ 7:30pm
Northern Nevada Preppers Net	Wednesday @ 8:00PM
Hospital Net	Friday @ 10:00AM

Nets on Simplex/HF

Jefferson Noon Net	7.204 LSB	Daily - 12:00pm
6 Meter Net	50.350 USB	Tuesday – 8:00pm
2 Meter Weak Signal	144.250 USB	Wednesday - 8:00PM
2 Meter Simplex Net	146.500 FM	Thursday – 8:00PM
10 Meter Net	28.350 USB	Sunday – 2:00PM

Join us on SNARS Telegram Channel

Visit <https://snars.org/telegram/>



Telegram

a new era of messaging

Our official channel for members to communicate with each other via chat, ask questions and get the latest information about the club, repeater status and amateur



SNARS Weekly DMR Net

Tuesdays 8:00PM

SNARS Talk Group 31328

SNARS CALENDAR

SNARS Breakfast meeting April 5 (see details page 3)

SNARS Board Meeting Wednesday, April 9, 6:00PM. Location and mode Chin Chin, Sparks, and on Zoom. Click on this link: <https://snars.org/activities/meetings/>
The calendar is below the monthly meetings.

Reno QRP Group Meeting Tuesday, April 15, 11am – 12pm, Jack's Coffee Shop #2, 605 N Wells Ave, Reno, NV. Contact Ed, WD7Y WD7Y@sbcglobal.net for more info. If cancellation is needed, will be announced on the SNARS noon net.

HAM RADIO ELMERING NIGHT on Zoom
7:00 PM Monday April 21, 2024 see <https://snars.org/hamradionight/>

Next months SNARS Breakfast Meeting, May 3, 7 AM (Zoom 8 AM). Location and media mode tentative, depending on Board decision.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AS OF March 27, 2025

Justin	Cotter	KO6IMY
Richard	Regnell	KK7ZQV
Carlos	Cadiente	KF7PFT
Daniel	Farmer	KK7ZJQ
Ben	Woodard	KG6FNK
Paul	Reed	KB6TDJ
Richard	Bieniek	SWL
Andrea	Grigg	KK7ZJX
Anthony	Lavin	KO6IFC
Tyler	Brower	KK7ZJT
Lucy	Beeler	KK7ZJZ
Marcia	Wilmes	KK7ZJP
Elizabeth	Richards	WN3OSI

THE NAME OF THE GAME

Jim Shepherd W6US

ALMOST EMPTY BANDS...

This week, while 10m was wall-to-wall signals, POTA and SOTA operators, and nets were keeping the repeaters busy, there were some attempts to get on the air and make contacts on the microwave (MW) bands...

All hams have privileges on the microwave bands, yet very few have even tried to get up on the Gigahertz parts of our spectrum... Part of the reason is that there is very little plug-and-play equipment available. There are only 2 radios with 5 watts, multi mode or better in current production that cover the 23 cm band, the Icom 9700 and the IC-905. Most of the activity occurs using transverters that connect to 10 or 2 meter radios and are on the various microwave bands. Most of these transverters require amplifiers to put out a couple of watts or more.

There is another group of modulators aimed at the Amateur Television (ATV) groups that can provide a few milliwatts on some of the microwave bands up to 10 GHz. These can be hooked to class A amplifiers to achieve 25 watts or so, and there are receivers that can down-convert the MW TV signals down to channels 58, 59, and 60 cable frequencies which allows viewing on modern televisions. (Stay tuned... more news about ATV in this area is coming this year!) This Amateur Television is digital hi-def DVB-T broadcast quality and can be done on our UHF/MW bands.

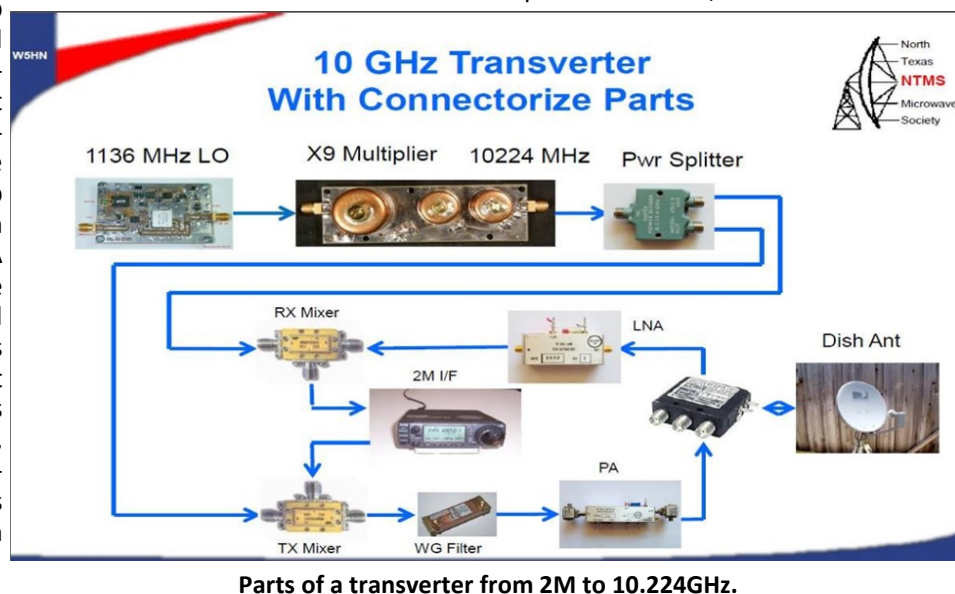
Microwaves are line of sight propagation for the most part. In tests with another local ham this last week where we were using about 5 watts into 16 element directional antennas, contact was not made due to a couple of very low rises in the valley floor over the six mile path... There was a beacon in another part of town where we both had marginal coverage that we could hear, but no joy on our direct path. We will be trying again using bounce paths of the local mountains, and hopefully we will have some success. We also plan on going afield to high points and trying. There is another ham in the Spanish Springs area that is also going to try with these field tests... Anyone else that has some 1296.1 MHz USB gear is also welcome to coordinate with us using the SNARS Telegram...

Getting on a mountaintop overlooking most of California is another good location to try for MW contacts. There is a lot more activity, especially during UHF/MW contests. A good

location for information and happenings in the western US is the San Bernardino Microwave Society group at <https://groups.io/g/SBMS>

23cm (1.2GHz) is just the start. 13cm (2.4 GHz), 9cm (3.4 GHz), 6cm (5.7 GHz) and 3cm (10 GHz) are the other most popular bands in the microwave spectrum. 10GHz is very popular and it is usually used with a small dish antenna for higher gain and better directionality and contacts have been made at over 500km... The 13cm and 6cm bands overlaps parts of the computer WiFi bands, and some off-the-shelf equipment is available and useable with amplifiers and the proper antennas to make wide area data networks for linking repeater sites.

There is some experimenting being done on the higher bands, but most of the distance records for these are relatively short due to absorption by water vapor or other things in the air. Under current regulations, everything above 275GHz is wide open for ham use, and that includes modulated lightwaves...



With power and high gain antennas, moon-bounce is popular with hams. There is a very limited area on the other side of the globe that is not reachable by EME from here, but DXCC on 1296 is possible. There are satellites out there that also have inputs, outputs, or beacons in the MW bands. Meteor scatter, rain scatter, and reflections off of aircraft are another way of getting out

of the area with these bands. There are some even interested in doing Venus or Mars bounce with big equipment...

Currently, there is not a 23cm repeater on the air in this area. Ideally, a linear transponder type with a few hundred KHz of bandwidth which would allow multiple CW, SSB, and digital modes would be the one to put up...

With the lack of off-the-shelf plug-and-play gear, it is a great set of bands to learn about construction and improvisation. There are kits, but a lot of gear needs to be assembled out of modules. Antennas are very small, and mobile/field operation is a big plus. During the UHF+ contests, a mountaintop location overlooking California can yield lots of good contacts on the Gigahertz bands.

Time to have some fun on our shortest wave bands!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: W6US-TV made a brief appearance on the UHF airways yesterday, and he will be working more on it after the weekend....)

SNARS VOLUNTEERING

Behind every Ham license is a team of dedicated Volunteer Examiners (VEs) who dedicate many hours of their time to greet, proctor exams, grade exams, do the reports and then send them in electronically to the ARRL for processing. These are Ham radios' unsung heroes. I have the awesome privilege of coordinating the exams and the VE team of what I believe, is the best in the country.

Krystal Nelson, N6KDN

Robert Nelson, KA6NSN, Lawrence (Voz) Vosper, KB7VT and Krystal Nelson, N6KDN, Richard Nehrbass, AJ7E, Bill Nichols, NN7K, and Raymond Maxwell, W7TAP, who all reached 100+ exams with our VE team!

Thanks to all the SNARS members who help behind the scenes:

Please feel free to reach out to me to see how you might be of service to the club in 2025! With great appreciation,

K6ST Barry SNARS President k6st@arri.net

73, Barry K6ST

President, Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

www.snars.org

Nevada Section Youth Coordinator

ARRL (American Radio Relay League) www.arri.org



SHORT TAKES (By Jim Shepherd W6US)

CONTEST CALENDAR

There are 11 QSO parties this month—LA, MS, MO, NM, GA, ND, NE, MI, FL, Ontario, and Quebec... Something for every weekend. The ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB contest will be April 13 and will be a good one for technician operators to get on 10 meters and have some fun. These and other contest information can be found at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.php>

DX

Lots of expeditions this month with the big DX operations in places like Surinam, Ogasawara, Palau, Thailand, and Marquesas. More information can be found at: <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

THIRD MONDAY ZOOM HAM RADIO NIGHT

We will have our popular Ham Radio Elmering Nights via ZOOM to

get your questions answered. It will be held at 7pm on Monday, 21 April. One of the items we will be discussing is getting on the air with Microwaves. More information, including the link will be published before that date.

HAMFESTS/EVENTS

Las Vegas-- On the first Saturday of every month, the local "HAMS" gather at the parking lot, the PETERSON CENTER 6455 Dean Martin Drive. The swap meet is a non-sponsored event. It is held rain or shine and on holidays. There is no charge to set up and sell at this gathering. Selling begins at sunrise and typically runs 2-3 hours, depending on the amount of items and buyers present.

Start piling up your equipment to get ready for the SNARS Ham Swap coming up next month on Saturday, May 10 at Cabala's parking lot in Verdi.

NAME THAT RIG?
(Answer on page 15)



www.rigpix.com

Reno Ham Swap - May 10, 2025 - Cabela's Reno



Saturday, May 10, 2025

Cabela's Reno - East Parking Lot

8650 Boomtown Garson Rd, Verdi, NV (Reno)

Seller Setup @ 7:00AM

\$10.00 Per Space

Open to Public @ 8:00AM

Free to Browse and Buy

Cabelas Opens @ 9:00AM

Shop the Famous Cabela's

Raffle Drawing @ 10:00AM

HT Radios and More

An ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest



Talk-In Frequency 147.210 + PL 100.0

DMR Talk Group: SNARS 31328

More Info

<https://snars.org/activities/renohamswap/>

SNARS VEs 100 SESSIONS OR MORE

Krystal Nelson N6KDN

Behind every Ham license is a team of dedicated Volunteer Examiners (VEs) who dedicate many hours of their time to greet, proctor exams, grade exams, do the reports and then send them in electronically to the ARRL for processing. These are Ham radios' unsung heroes. I have the awesome privilege of coordinating the exams and the VE team of what I believe, is the best in the country.

Today, I was able to present VE certificates of appreciation to some of the VEs who have participated in 100+ exam sessions. Some were presented in person and others were mailed. There will be others presented at the next exam session in April.

Pictured here are: **Robert Nelson, KA6NSN, Lawrence (Voz) Vosper, KB7VT** and Krystal Nelson, N6KDN

Not pictured are: **C. Richard Nehrbass, AJ7E, Bill Nichols, NN7K, and Raymond Maxwell, W7TAP.**



YOUTH INVOLVEMENT



How amazing that scouting and ham radio are coming together in the great Reno area. Thanks to Tim KA5QDY scout leader and everyone who supports the scout effort. We are so fortunate to have this opportunity for SNARS to assist the youth become active in a lifetime of ham radio. There are 10 scouts who passed their technician licenses in February and they are now on the air. The next scout VE testing will be on Saturday, April 26, 2025. If you know of some scouts that want to get their Technician Class license, Email krystal2@yahoo.com Krystal N6KDN, VE Liaison.

Barry K6ST
President, Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society (www.snars.org)
Nevada Section Youth Coordinator
ARRL (American Radio Relay League) www.arrl.org
The national association for amateur radio

SNARS HAM RADIO ELMERING NIGHT

3rd Monday of each month at 7PM PT on Zoom



HAM RADIO ELMERING NIGHT

MONDAY, APRIL 21, AT 7:00 PM PST ON ZOOM

TOPIC BREAKOUT ROOMS

Microwaves, VHF/UHF Analog, DMR/Fusion/Dstar

REGISTER HERE:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ldO-orz8uHNDRXnL1Rl6LiMqJQ_E5opjG

ARRL Member Bulletin



March 21, 2025

ARRL to Gather Comments from Members on FCC's Public Notice

Dear ARRL Member,

On March 12, 2025, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a Public Notice titled "In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete," seeking input from the public on FCC rules that may be outdated, unnecessary, or in need of modification. This inquiry is part of the FCC's ongoing effort to alleviate regulatory burdens across various services, including the Amateur Radio Service.

As part of this review, ARRL is conducting a thorough examination of the provisions in Part 97 and related rules that affect amateur radio operators. ARRL's written comments, which will be prepared by our FCC Counsel and the ARRL Executive Committee, will include consideration of feedback we received from members.

Members who want to share comments and concerns about this matter are urged to share your feedback directly with ARRL. Please submit your comments by March 31, 2025 and use the following feedback form:

www.arrl.org/fcc-public-notice-march-2025

ARRL will submit our official filing to the FCC by the April 11 deadline. After that, there will be an opportunity for reply comments at the FCC until April 28, and then later, opportunities for public comment on any rules the FCC proposes to delete or modify.

While the FCC Public Notice is a broad inquiry that does not single out any specific radio service, ARRL is nonetheless committed to protecting the Amateur Radio Service, promoting its public interest goals, and ensuring your right to access radio spectrum.

ARRL will continue to work on this matter, and we will inform members as more news develops.

Thank you,

73

ARRL Executive Committee

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ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®



ARES NEWS

EVENT CALENDAR



EVENTS FOR 2025	DATE	DATE END	SPONSOR/ ORGANIZER	COORDINATOR	CONTACT
One Day Ham Review for Technician & General question pool exam.	2/15/2025		Washoe ARES	John Phillips KL7RI	phillips@yahoo.com
Get SCOUTS ON THE AIR One Day Ham Review	2/22/2025		Washoe ARES	John Phillips KL7RI	phillips@yahoo.com
Reno Off-Road & Motorsports Expo	3/28/2025	3/30/2025	Washoe ARES	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
One Day Ham Review for Technician & General question pool exam.	4/19/2025		Washoe ARES	John Phillips KL7RI	phillips@yahoo.com
Get Scouts on the Air. One day Ham Review	4/26/2025		Washoe ARES	John Phillips KL7RI	phillips@yahoo.com
Stetina Paydirt	5/17/2025		Bike Monkey	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
Reno Tahoe Odyssey Relay Run- Date Changed.	5/31/2025	6/1/2025	Sponsor by Reno Running Co.	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride	6/1/2025		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV	wa6ewv@juno.com
Silver State 50/50 race	6/7/2025 updated		Silver State Striders	Steve KS6A	ks6a@sbcglobal.net
Pony Express Re-Ride	6/11/2025	6/21/2025	SIERA	Gerry Miller KJ7GEZ	hamspud35@gmail.com
Lost and Found Gravel Grinder SBTs	6/12/2025	6/15/2025		Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrotter@sbcglobal.net
NASTR 75/50/30 Horse Endurance	6/14/2025		Nevada All-State Trail Riders, Inc	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
One Day Ham Review for Technician & General question pool exam.	6/21/2025		Washoe ARES	John Phillips KL7RI	phillips@yahoo.com
Truckee Tahoe Gravel Race	6/28/2025		Bike Monkey	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
Alta Alpina Challenge	6/28/2025		Alta Alpina Cycling Club	Jennie Hamiter, KE7YBA	jenniehamiter@mac.com
Death Ride	7/12/2025		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV	wa6ewv@juno.com
TAHOE 200 Endurance Run	7/13/2025	7/17/2025	Destination Trail Run	Todd Voigts KJ6DGG	kj6dgg@gmail.com
Tahoe Rim Trail This event has been canceled for 2025 due to con-	7/19/2025	7/20/2025	Tahoe Mountain Milers	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
Lost Sierra Endurance Race	7/25/2025		Bad Luck Run Club	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
Tahoe Rim Ride 50-Horse Endurance This event has been canceled for 2025 due to construction in the area.	7/26/2025		Nevada All-State Trail Riders, Inc	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
Vegas to Reno Off Road Race	TBD	TBD	Best in the Desert Racing Assn	Keith KC7HTK	kc7htkeith@hotmail.com
One Day Ham Review for Technician & General question pool exam.	8/16/2025		Washoe ARES	John Phillips KL7RI	phillips@yahoo.com
Virginia City 100-Horse Endurance	9/20/2025		Nevada All-State Trail Riders, Inc.	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
Red Rock Rumble Horse Endurance, New Event	10/18/2025		Nevada All-State Trail Riders, Inc.	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
One Day Ham Review for Technician & General question pool exam.	10/18/2025		Washoe ARES	John Phillips KL7RI	phillips@yahoo.com
Nevada Day Parade	11/1/2025		NV AREA NW DEC	John Phillips KL7RI	phillips@yahoo.com
Scheels Turkey Trot	11/27/2025		WC-ARES	Arlan Robinson, KA7ZAU	ka7zau@washoeares.org
One Day Ham Review for Technician & General question pool exam.	12/13/2025		Washoe ARES	John Phillips KL7RI	phillips@yahoo.com

ARES continued on following page.....

WASHOE COUNTY ARES NEWS

We are looking forward to this year's events to help different organizations with communications. We will be looking for volunteers to help with all the 2025 events. Remember you don't have to be an ARES member to help with events. We received a lot of help from SNARS members and other Volunteers last year. Thank you to all that supported us.

You can obtain a list of events by going to www.washoeares.org click on the tab of Events. There you will see a month-by-month description of events. If you would like to download and print a quick version of events including the events from other ARES groups or other clubs. That is available on the same page at the top. It has been updated. Please check out the new version.

Our next outdoor communication event is on May 17, 2025. It will be the Stetina's Paydirt. This will be located in Carson City. This is Sponsored by Bike Monkey. More information is coming soon on the WC-ARES website.

We had our first Horse Ride event. March 15th, 2025. This was located outside of the Red Rock Road area. On this day, it was very windy, cloudy and cold. All the radio operators accomplished the required communication. The event was a success. Thank you to all the volunteers listed below for their support.

Bill Howe (K7WHH) and Heidi Howe, Ray Foster (KB7GNA), Gary Garrett (KJ7HMY), Shawn Tayler (N7LQ) Glenn Marshall (KM6BJD) Ralph Lucas (W6RWL) David Richards (AF6RM), John Phillips (KL7RI) Ken Forrer (KF7BNX) and Arlan Robinson (KA7ZAU)

We were very excited that we were able to attend the Reno Off Road and Motorsports Expo again this year with our good neighbors SNARS. This took place at the Reno Sparks Convention Center. Thank you to all the Volunteers listed below. They all helped in the ARES booth to help spread the word about Amateur Radio and ARES. Some volunteers did bring some equipment for demonstration.

Jimmie Richards (N3OSI), Peter DeBay (KE7VSR), Ken Forrer (KF7BNX) Darrell Upson (W6ADZ), Ken Juenke (K7KBJ), David Wager (K7DWW), Dave Barnard (AE7EF), John Phillips (KL7RI), Arlan Robinson (KA7ZAU) and Ed Boog (KJ7DHY).

Speaking of help, we are still looking for volunteers as a net control operator. To help us out on the Hospital Nets that are on the VHF and the DMR system. This takes place on Fridays starting at 9:00 AM to 9:50 AM on DMR - Nevada Talk Group 3132. Then on the SNARS link system starting at 10:00 AM roughly going to 10:30 AM or earlier. It depends on the people checking in. These are very easy Nets to conduct if you are inexperienced and looking for an easy opportunity to get involved and learn on conducting a net. This is a good opportunity for you. We also take those experienced individuals that can help grow and exceed the net operation. Any help would be appreciated.

I would like to recognize and welcome Don— KK7NEV to the team of net control operators for the 2 meter Hospital Net. Thank you to the rest of the NCO's that continue to support the Hospital Nets and ARES Nets. Thank you SNARS For the use of the repeaters and the support given to WC-ARES

Arlan Duwayne Robinson (KA7ZAU)
ARES- Washoe County Emergency Coordinator
Cell: (775) 233-3530
Website: www.washoeares.org
Email: ka7zau@washoeares.org



A TALE OF TWO PARKS: WASHOE LAKE SP AND MASON VALLEY WMA (US-2640 AND US-7495)

DAVID THOMPSON AG7TX

Saturday morning I woke, made coffee, and sat down to collect my thoughts. It was a normal day. Well, it was until I decided there were a couple of tasks I needed to get done. So, I busied myself photographing the Fuji X100V and the X-E2 that were on my list to sell.

Once that task was done and the images reviewed, I wrote the descriptions and listed each camera on fleaBay. I really do not like to use the service anymore because their fees are excessive. My cost to sell is on the order of 15 percent. But, it is the *devil I know* so I continue to use them.

That task done, I asked myself what was next. By that time, The Girl had wandered into my workroom, checked in with me, and moved to her daytime mat. I gave her a ruffle of the ears and a shoulder pat and turned back to my work.

"Nope, this is not going to do. We need to get outside." So I fed her, took her out, and started to gather up a few things. We both needed some outside time and I decided to make a run to Washoe Lake for some air, some exercise, and some radio play.

The rig was basically loaded, so I grabbed a couple of water bottles, her gear, and we loaded up. I grabbed McD's for lunch and we drove to the park, nibbling on fries as we drove. (Yes, she gets fries...)

At the park, I got her out and we got a short walk in. The wind was down and the Sun felt good. I let her sniff about while I got out my table, chair, and her mat. She stayed in the rig while I deployed the Chameleon MPAS 2.0 antenna with the mil-extension and the mil-whip. I used my hand-built counterpoise set — three wires about 16-feet long that I deploy symmetrically about the antenna. I'm confident I get a better ground plane from multiple wires and it takes only a couple of minutes to deploy them.

I then turned to setup the station and found that I had... wait for it... left the station battery behind. At that point, several thoughts passed through my mind, none of them printable. With the antenna deployed, I could not leave the site to retrieve the battery.

However, I had the Elecraft KX2 *shack-in-a-box* in the rig. So, I put away my exterior equipment (save the antenna), got the little radio out, connected it to the antenna, and turned it on. It powered right up, so I checked the 20m band but it was busy. So I moved to 15m and found an open frequency. I spotted myself on the POTA.app website and started calling.

I was puzzled that the little rig was putting out only seven watts. I checked the antenna match and power output settings and found nothing. Then, in the middle of a contact, the rig shut down. The battery was depleted.

It took only seconds to retrieve the spare from the rig's kit. I plugged it in and powered the rig on. In my haste, I had changed frequencies, did not notice, and lost the contact I was working.

So, I paused, took a breath, changed back to my frequency, and found it occupied. "Poop!" I thought (well, kinda-sorta). Frustrated and harried, I searched for an unoccupied frequency, adjusted my log (HAMRS on my iPhone), and edited my spot. I restarted my call, CQ POTA DE AG7TX AR, and started working callers again.

We came up on the close of the day (1600h PST == 0000h UTC), so I



This was my setup for the Washoe Lake SP activation, after I discovered I left the station battery behind.

took the last call and then cleared the frequency. I powered down the little radio, closed my log, and sat for a minute. What might have been a frustrating experience turned out fine. I had a spare radio that had a good battery. I made about 20 contacts (more than enough to make my activation), solved a couple of problems, and had a good day.

I recovered the station and the antenna and put them away. I got The Girl out of the rig and we took a ten-minute walk around the area we have been working. She sniffed, pulled on the lead to go faster, peed, and pooped — all the doggie things. Her gait is improving and maybe the muscle mass of her left hip is increasing. She limps less and all of that is good.

The day ended well with us heading back to the house for a good evening. I got the KX2 kit from the rig and put it on the charger. Both batteries needed to be charged.



The Yaesu FT-897D station at the end of my Mason Valley activation. I left the microphone in the 897 box. Shot with Sony A7iii and Nikkor 50mm f/1.2.

I woke Sunday morning with the time change screwing with my natural rhythm. I made coffee (a substantial habit) and sat down at my desk. There are a few websites I check daily while I have coffee. As I worked through my second mug, I looked out the window and noticed the Sun shining. I checked the weather and we were in for another lovely day. So I checked the radio weather and it looks like propagation would be OK if not good.

I decided to go activate Mason Valley WMA. It is only a bit more than an hour away, is not heavily used (at least the area where I like to play radio), and I have not activated it in a long time (a couple of years). So, if propagation turned out to not be good, it was not a long trip to have spent.

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I took The Girl out to eliminate and sniff. Then I fed her before I started preparations to go. (If I do not do things in the proper order, she will not eat.) I checked the KX2 and swapped batteries on the charger. This meant I was not taking the little rig with me. I grabbed a snack, The Girl's gear, and we headed for the rig.

I started the rig and then realized I did not have a battery for the Yaesu FT-897D. Hmm... I almost violated the *First Rule of the Day*... again. Well, for the second day in a row. I retrieved the Bioenno 30Ah battery from its charger in the camper and stowed it in the carry bag in the 4Runner.

Then we headed for McD's for a breakfast sandwich and another coffee. Provisioned, we headed through town and then east on US 50 while I chatted with Older Son.

The trip was uneventful and I remembered the trail at the park to my preferred operating position. I got The Girl out for a short walk and enjoyed the air and the Sun. Then I put her on her mat and started setting up the station. Again, I used the Chameleon MPAS 2.0 and the Yaesu FT-897D. The radio would not power up. Hmm...

I checked the connections, but no joy. I thought this odd because I had used the radio only a week ago. I returned to the rig and checked the 897 box. I had a spare power cable. I retried it, swapped it for the cable connected to the radio, and the radio powered up. Hmm... I thought. That is odd. There was nothing physically apparent from a brief examination. I will need to check it.

With the station setup, I picked up my iPhone to spot myself on the POTA.app website.

"#!#\$%#%#%#!!" no freakin' signal. Plus, in my haste, and had not posted an activation on the website. So, I took a drink of water, paused, and decided how to solve the problem. I could a) just start calling and then send my park number as part of the first exchange with a request for a spot or b) drive a half-mile back towards the main road to pick up a cellular signal.

I elected Plan B. So, The Girl and I drove back toward the main road until I got a good signal. I then posted an upcoming activation, and we returned to the OP. I set the radio to an open frequency on the 17m band and started calling (CQ). I was greeted with a caller after a couple of calls and started working stations. At this point I knew that the Reverse Beacon Network would pick up my general calls (CQ POTA DE AG7TX) and then the POTA website robot would scrape by call sign from the RBN. This would keep me spotted so that callers could find me.

The Sun was a little too much, so I moved the rig to shelter the station (and me) a bit. The hatch does a pretty good job of providing shade.

I worked the bands for a couple of hours until the number of callers fell off. My farthest call of the day was an operator in Sweden whom I have worked a number of times. When the upper bands are working, I get calls from Europe and sometimes South America. That is fun.

Satisfied and ready to head back home, I recovered the antenna and station. With the equipment stowed, The Girl and I did another walk. We then loaded up and headed home.

I reflected on the weekend as we drove home. The Fujifilm X100V sold Sunday morning. I knew I would want to pack it and get it prepared to ship Monday. I thought about supper and decided I had not had enchiladas in a long time. There is a Mexican place in the CVS lot

on US 50 on the east side of town, but it was closed. So, I started for San Marcus Grill. I called a buddy who has been trying to engage for a shared meal, but he was just taking supper from the oven.

So, I was solo. The Girl would be fine in the rig while I got a bite of supper. I parked in the lot, dropped the windows a bit, and opened the moonroof a bit. She would have plenty of ventilation.

I went inside, was finally seated, and the helper brought chips and salsa. I ordered a Margarita because I have not had one in a very long time. In fact, I have all but given up alcohol since the first of the year. It was not that I felt addicted; but I thought the habit was not my best self and decided to try an experiment wherein I reduced my alcohol intake substantially to see how I feel.

The result is that I have almost no reflux overnight and I think I sleep a little better. So I will maintain the regimen even if I allow myself an occasional Margarita or glass of wine with supper.

I ate most of my enchiladas, so I did not pay the Dog Tax. Forgiven, I drove us home, put the battery on the charger, and fed her. We then settled in for the night. It was a good day.

There were things learned, of course.

- Be sure to check the punch list.
- Wait, I do not have a punch list.
- If I do not leave necessary parts of the station in the rig, then create a punch list... even if it is just a note that I need to get a battery, radio, antenna, etc from storage and put it in the rig.
- Have a backup plan. On the Saturday outing, I had a QRP radio in the rig and had batteries for it. This saved the activation.
- On the Sunday outing, I had an Elecraft KX1 and battery in a box in the rig. That was my backup. And, I knew it was there.
- I did not have a DVM in the rig. I should be sure to have a small toolkit in the rig with a ohm meter for continuity checking. Fortunately, I had a spare power cable so was able to operate.
- I have a propensity for ad hoc activations. While this is OK it can lead to failures, such as a forgotten battery, no cellular signal for spotting, or other problems from lack of a punch list or moving equipment/items to and from the vehicle.
- I should spend a few more minutes before leaving the house to post my intended activation, check the kit, and be sure I have everything needed for a daytrip.

As usual, I learned a few things. I hope the lessons stick. It was a good weekend. The weather was good. The Girl is healing, albeit slowly. I played some radio. One of my excess cameras sold (the X100V is still in high demand).

Oh yeah, hat tip to Dickens for my use of his meme.
Life is good. I am grateful.



After completing the Mason Valley WMA activation, I paused to make an image of the site and the Chameleon MPAS antenna. It was a good day.

FUN STUFF FOR APRIL

Well for April there are 11 (count 'em!) state/province QSO parties including the Canadian ones! There's one ARRL/NCJ contest shown in BOLD. Knock yourself out!

5 Apr 1400 to 6 Apr 0200 1.8-28,50,144 Louisiana QSO Party CW Ph Dig <https://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org/>

5 Apr 1400 to 6 Apr 0200 1.8-28,50,144 Mississippi QSO Party CW Ph Dig www.arrlmiss.org

5 Apr 1400 to 6 Apr 2000 1.8-28,VHF/UHF Missouri QSO Party CW Ph Dig www.w0ma.org

12 Apr 0700 to 13 Apr 1300 1.8-28 JIDX CW Contest CW www.jidx.org

12 Apr 1400 to 13 Apr 0200 1.8-28,50,144 New Mexico QSO Party CW Ph Dig www.newmexicoqsoparty.org

12 18 Apr 1300 to 13 1800 1.8-28,50,144 North Dakota QSO Party CW Ph Dig www.ndarrlsection.com

12 1 Apr 800 to 13 Apr 2359 1.8-28,50 Georgia QSO Party CW Ph www.gaqsoparty.com

13 1800 APR TO 13 APR 2359 3.5-28 ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP, SSB PH www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

19 1100 Apr to 20 Apr 2259 1.8-28,VHF/UHF Nebraska QSO Party CW Ph Dig www.nebraskaqsoparty.com

19 1600 Apr to 20 Apr 0400 3.5-28 Michigan QSO Party CW Ph www.migp.org

19 1800 Apr to 20 Apr 1800 1.8-28,50,144 Ontario QSO Party CW Ph www.va3cco.com

20 Apr 1200 to 20 Apr 2200 3.5-28,50,144 Quebec QSO Party CW Ph www.wp1.quebecqsoparty.org

26 Apr 0001 to 27 Apr 2359 28 10-10 Int'l Spring Contest, Digital Dig www.ten-ten.org

26 Apr 1600 to 27 Apr 2159 7,14,21,28 Florida QSO Party CW Ph www.floridagsoparty.org

If you want to see the full list, go [HERE](#)

DX FOR THIS MONTH

Wow, there's no end to the DX this month! Literally over the whole globe! Have a blast.

Mar 24	Apr 05	Rodrigues I	3B9DJ
Apr 01	Apr 07	Surinam	PZ5IP
Apr 02	Apr 17	Ogasawara	JD1
Apr 03	Apr 10	Maldives	8Q7EF
Apr 09	to Apr 15	French Polynesia	TX7XG
Apr 11	to Apr 13	Palau	T88PB
Apr 16	to Apr 23	Palau	T88UW
Apr 18	to Apr 20	East Kiribati	T32AZ

Apr 18	to Apr 26	Galapagos	HD8G
Apr 19	to Apr 25	Marquesas	FO
Apr 19	to May 02	Gambia	C5
Apr 22	to May 01	Tanzania	5H1KB
Mar 24	to Apr 03	Vanuatu	YJOCA
Apr 25	to Apr 28	Thailand	E28AM/p
Apr 25	to May 07	Austral Is	TX9A
Apr 26	to Apr 30	French Polynesia	FO

You might check with: <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html> to see more DX, or if others have been cancelled or added to the list.

RENO QRP SLOW SPEED CW NET

NEXT NET SESSIONS WILL BE on April 3 and April 17, at 11AM Pacific DAYLIGHT Time. As always, check with WD7Y@sbcglobal.net to confirm times. Target frequency 7.045 MHz, if busy search somewhere near that frequency.

THE FOLLOWING SHOULD ALWAYS BE IN YOUR REPORT:

NAME ,RST, LOCATION, RIG, POWER, ANTENNA.

REMEMBER TO INCLUDE RST IN YOUR REPORT

Feel free to add something else in your exchange.

Take some time to report RST for other OP's or anything else that comes to mind.

Sharing information about you and your equipment will accomplish two things.

First It gives you and everybody else practice sending and copying.

Second It is nice to spend time on the air with your friends. Consider this a QRP meeting on the air.

Relax and have some airtime fun with your friends.

73/72 Ed/WD7Y

NAME THAT RIG (From page 6)

The Hammarlund-Roberts Company was formed in 1931, smack-dab in the middle of the Great Depression. It went out of business that year, but not before making the **Comet**, a receiver for which one had to provide a cabinet. They re-emerged from bankruptcy as the Hammarlund Company of New York City. The first receiver was the **Comet-Pro**, which featured a cabinet. They subsequently moved to North Carolina where they would remain until the end. Thus began the multi-faceted Hammarlund line of receivers (and a couple transmitters!) that would culminate in the world-famous SP600 line of receivers as they neared their demise in the mid-1960s. The first **Comet Pro** had eight tubes, with no dedicated RF stage, and covered up to 20 Mcs. (That's Mhz for you whipper-snappers!) The IF frequency was 465 Kc, typical of the era. No other specifications were given. The **Comet Pro** sold for \$88, less tubes. Hammarlund's last receiver was the HQ-205, which featured continuous coverage to 30Mc, and incorporated a 5 watt CB transmitter. Hammarlund receivers still sell to the boatanchor crowd on the used market, and are generally regarded as very good receivers.

SNARS SILENT KEYS

IN MEMORY OF SNARS MEMBERS WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY.

If you know of a SNARS member or friend of SNARS who has passed away recently, submit it to me WB2AWQ@arrrl.net or any Board member for verification and inclusion on this page.



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2025- 6:00PM

Chin Chin and Via Zoom

1. Call to order and roll call at 6:00 PM

Board of Directors:

Barry Bettman, K6ST Z

John Byerly, N7ROJ P

Doug Edmondo, W7DBE P

Anthony Marcin, W7XM Z

Krystal Nelson, N6KDN P

Jim Shepherd, W6US P

Greg Krantz, NT7Q P

Guest(s) In attendance: KK7MNO,
Bob Nelson KA6NSN, Dawn Krantz

2. Approval of Minutes - Discussion/Action

Approve February 2025 Meeting Minutes - Motion by Doug, Second John, Motion Passes

3. Approval of Agenda - Discussion/Action

Approve Agenda - Motion by Barry, Second by Greg, Motion Passes

4. Reports

A. President's Report - Barry discussed a pizza meeting in South Reno Possibly, waiting for a response back to reserve the big room.

B. Secretary Report - Tony reported 402 members with 14 new members in the past 60 days joining. Will be working on the Sales Tax Exemption and the Secretary of State filings this next month.

C. Treasurer - Doug reported 28,638 as of the end of February in the treasury and reported the ARRL received the replacement check for the ARRL memberships. Will review possibly of moving the NVCON checking funds into a savings account in the near future.

D. Technical Team -

E. Control Operators / Trustee - John discussed the status of the control ops and running well.

F. Events

1. Ham Swap - Barry discussed the web page has been updated with the latest information. ARRL sanctioned event were submitted and approved. Tony will send an eblast to the Ham Swap email list.

2. Reno Off Road Expo - Barry discussed the signups and needing additional volunteers.

G. Education & Youth Activities -

1. Scouts - Krystal discussed the 26th of April Exam for the scouts. Training center is not able to be used that week-end, it will be an afternoon and using the REOC.
2. Total 25 scouts and 1 attend tentatively planning to attend. Barry discussed the purchasing of talkpod radios for the scouts who pass.

H. SNARS Noon Net and SNARS Digital Net -

Barry indicated the nets are running fine and all is well with both nets. Jim suggested the mobile stations check-ins should be taken first to help with driving and getting to their destinations or getting out of range.

5. Old Business

AV Equipment - Doug discussed the list of equipment purchased and tested it and discussed some procedures settings.

6. New Business

No new business.

7. Board member and Public Comments

During this time members and board of directors may speak on any topic regardless if the item was agendized.

8. Adjournment - Action

A. Next Meeting: April 9, 2025 at 6:00PM, Location to be Announced **B.** Call For Adjournment. -

B. Adjourned at 6:55pm